E 312
.C742

MEMOIRS

OF

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

FIRST PRESIDENT

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

—*—

A NEW EDITION,

WITH CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

—*—

HARTFORD:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED
BY JOHN RUSSELL, jr.
And for Sale, Wholesale and Retail at his Printing-Office and Book-Store,
State-Street.

1813.

MEMOIRS

OF

GEN. GEO. WASHINGTON,

FIRST PRESIDENT

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A NEW EDITION,

WITH CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Thomas Condie

HARTFORD:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED
BY JOHN RUSSELL, JR.
And for Sale, Wholesale and Retail, at his Printing-Office and Book-Store, State Street.

....

1813.

E 312
.C14

MEMOIRS

OF

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

FIRST PRESIDENT

OF THE UNITED STATES.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was born February 22d, 1732, in the parish of Washington, in Westmoreland county, in the state of Virginia. His father, Mr. Augustine Washington, had a numerous offspring. He was possessed of a large property, and of distinguished reputation. George was his third son, and the first fruit of his second marriage. At the age of ten years, he lost his father. He received his education from a private tutor, under whom he acquired a knowledge of the Latin language, sufficient for the ordinary purposes of life: his mother tongue gramatically, and the elements of mathematics, which he, in his rising years, carefully improved by practical experiments in topographical and military plans. At fifteen years old, he was entered a midshipman on board a British ship of war, then stationed on the coast of Virginia. But after his baggage

had been packed up for embarkation, the plan was abandoned in obedience to the calls of maternal affection. For several years after he quitted his tutor, the learning he had acquired was much improved by a disposition to study. His mind was directed principally to practical knowledge. He became a skillful surveyor; and in the practice of that art, obtained information respecting the vacant lands of his native state, and their probable future value, which afterwards greatly contributed to the increase of his private fortune.

At the death of his brother, Lawrence, the vacant office of Adjutant General was, in consequence of the increased population and extensive limits of the colony, divided into three districts, and *the future Hero of America*, before he was twenty years of age, began his military career, by an appointment to the rank of Major in that department.

In 1753. Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie despatched young Major Washington, with plenary power to treat with the Indians, and to engage them to continue firm in their attachment to England, and to warn the French to desist from the inroads they were making, in direct violation of the treaties then subsisting between the two crowns. This mission he performed with singular industry, intelligence, and address.

The appointment of Major Washington was deemed a circumstance somewhat extraordina-

ry at that period; it was said that a youth unacquainted with the enlarged commerce of the world, unexperienced in political concerns, appeared to be unfit to be employed to conduct a negotiation, wherein subjects of the greatest importance were involved. It was very true that the subjects were important, for they shortly after became the origin of a war between the two nations, which raged for many years, and extended throughout every part of the globe, and which ended in the final expulsion of the French from the continent.

But those who had formed such superficial notions of the Major, were, in the end, deceived by the success and abilities manifested through the whole transaction. This having been the first effort of that career which has terminated with so much splendor in history, and honor and happiness to himself and his country. A report of his proceedings sent to Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia, on that occasion, is highly illustrative of that activity and penetration which have signalized his character on a more extensive theatre, at a subsequent period.

On his return from this perilous embassy, with Mons. de St. Pierre's answer, and his good success in the Indian negotiations, Major Washington was complimented with the thanks and approbation of his country. His journal does great credit to his industry, attention, and judgment: and it has since proved of infinite ser-

vice to those who have been doomed to traverse the same inhospitable tracts.

Governor Dinwiddie's letter to the French commandant, and Mons. de St. Pierre's answer, have been published in several periodical works, both in America and England. The Governor's letter stated, that he had heard with surprise and concern, that the French were erecting fortresses and making settlements in the lands upon the river Ohio, which are the property of the crown of Great-Britain; in consequence of which, he is induced in the name of the king, to send the bearer, George Washington, Esq. one of the Adjutants-General of the forces of Virginia, to complain of the encroachments made in violation of the treaties subsisting between the two crowns, requesting by whose authority he had marched from Canada, with an armed force, to invade the British territories, and that the French forces depart peaceably, without prosecuting a purpose so interruptive to the harmony which his majesty is so desirous to continue and cultivate with the Most Christian King. Also that Major Washington might be entertained with the politeness of his rank. The French commandant's answer only stated, that he would transmit the Governor's letter to Canada, to his General the Marquis du Quesne, by whose answer he would be guided; that he was upon French ground, by the orders of his General, consequently that he could not obey the summons of

the Governor; and that he had made it his particular care to receive Mr. Washington with the distinction suitable to his dignity.

In 1754, the designs of the French becoming more manifest, and their movements more daring, orders were issued by administration for the colonies to arm and unite in one confederacy. The Assembly of Virginia took the lead, by voting a sum of money for the public service, and raising a regiment for the protection of the frontiers of the colony. Of this corps, Mr. Fry, one of the Professors of the College, was appointed Colonel, and Major Washington received the commission of Lieutenant-Colonel. But Colonel Fry died on the march, at Patterson's creek; and of course left his regiment to the second in command. He had under his command one hundred and fifty men. His orders were to march to the Ohio. During his march he was joined by a small detachment under command of Captain Stephens, and when he had proceeded as far as Will's creek, he received intelligence that Capt. Trent had been obliged to surrender the Fort which he had erected between the Ohio and French creek, to a body of about eight hundred French; whereupon Colonel Washington deemed it impracticable to march towards the Fort, without a sufficient force, thought it most prudent to proceed to open roads so as to pre-occupy the advantageous post at the confluence of the Allegany and Mononga-

hela rivers. He was to have been joined by a detachment of independant regulars from the southern colonies, together with some companies of provincials from North-Carolina and Maryland. But perceiving the necessity of expedition, and without waiting for their arrival, he commenced his march; but, notwithstanding his precipitated advance, the French had already taken possession and erected a fortification, which they named *Fort du Quesne*, in honor of the Marquis du Quesne, the French Governor of Canada.

Colonel Washington accordingly proceeded on his march from Will's-Creek; bravely encountering all the obstacles and difficulties of an impervious wilderness, crossing mires, savannas and rivers. His men were sometimes forced to ford rivers so deep as to take them up to the arm-pits; when he had proceeded as far as Turkey-foot, he received information that a party of French, commanded by M. de Jumonville, were concealed within a short distance of his camp; whereupon he secured his waggons, and put himself in the best means of defence he was capable of, until he had learned the strength of the enemy, and the place where they were.

Having received from the Indians the necessary information, on the night of the 27th of May, he set out with his men, under a heavy rain, and a night dark as pitch, they travelled along a path scarcely broad enough for one

man; they were sometimes fifteen or twenty minutes out of the path before they could come to it again, and so dark, that they would often strike one against another; all night they continued their route, and in the morning about sun-rise, formed themselves for an engagement, marching one after another in the Indian manner; the enemy did not discover them until they were close upon them, when Colonel Washington's company fired, and was supported by Mr. Wager's; these two companies received the whole fire of the French, which lasted a quarter of an hour before the enemy was routed out. M. de Jumonville and nine others were killed, one wounded, and twenty-one made prisoners. Among the prisoners was the celebrated woodsman, Mons. de la Force.

The following extract from Colonel Washington's Journal of his proceedings given in to Governor Dinwiddie, places these transactions in a point of view, that may be considered as correct. "We were advanced pretty near to them as we thought, when they discovered us; whereupon I ordered my company to fire, mine was supported by Mr. Wager's and my company and his received the whole fire of the French, during the greatest part of the action, which only lasted a quarter of an hour, before the enemy was routed.

"We killed M. de Jumonville, the commander of that party, as also nine others; we

wounded one, and made twenty-one prisoners, among whom were M. la Force, M. Droullon, and two cadets. The Indians scalped the dead, and took away most part of their fire arms, after which we marched on with the prisoners and guard, to the Indian camp, where again I held a council with the half king; and there informed him, that the Governor was desirous to see him, and was waiting for him at Winchester; he answered, that he could not go just then, as the people were in too imminent danger from the French, whom they had fell upon; that he must send messengers to all the allied nations, in order to invite them to take up the hatchet."

From the French prisoners, Colonel Washington had intelligence, that the French forces on the Ohio consisted of upwards of one thousand regulars, and some hundreds of Indians. Upon this intelligence, and considering his little army, which was somewhat reduced, and entirely insufficient to act offensively against the French and Indians, he fell back to a place known by the appellation of the *Great Meadows*, for the sake of forage and supplies. Here he built a temporary stockade, merely to cover his stores; it was from its fate called *Fort Necessity*. Colonel Washington was too sensible of the advantages of du Quesne, to abandon the idea of taking it. Ever since he left Will's creek, he had been indefatigable in his exer-

tions to form the regiment, open roads, and gain the Indians over to the side of the English, as also to watch the operations of the French, and to gain a knowledge of the Forts, situation, and forces, even as far as the Lakes. He had wrote to the Governors of Pennsylvania and Maryland, requesting their aid in the augmentation of his army. He remained at Fort Necessity for the arrival of some expected succour from New-York and Pennsylvania unmolested, until July following, when his small force, even after it was joined by captain M'Kay's regulars, did not amount to four hundred effectives, was attacked by an army of French and Indians, computed to have been sixteen hundred strong, under the command of the Sieur de Villiers, the brother of M. de Jumonville. The chief intention of this campaign, the French officer acknowledged, was to revenge the death of his brother, and to hinder any establishments on the lands claimed by the king of France.

The Virginians sustained the attack of the enemy's whole force for several hours, and laid near two hundred of them dead in the field, when the French commander, discouraged by such determined resolution, proposed the less dangerous method of dislodging his enemy by a parly, which ended in a capitulation. It was stipulated, that Colonel Washington should march away with all the honors of war, and be allowed to carry off his military stores, effects

and baggage. After this disaster the remains of the Virginia regiment returned to Alexandria, to be recruited and furnished with necessary supplies; during this period the French redoubled their activity and diligence on the Ohio, and in other places, and Virginia, who determined to send out a larger force in the spring following, erected the Forts Cumberland and Loudon, and formed a camp at Will's-creek, in order to annoy the enemy on the Ohio. In these several services (particularly in the construction of Forts) Colonel Washington was principally employed.

About this time, Mr. Lawrence Washington, his eldest brother died, and left him a considerable estate on the Potomac, which he called *Mount Vernon*, in compliment to Admiral Vernon. To this delightful spot Colonel Washington now retired, and devoted his attention to the avocations of private life.

In 1755, the British government sent to this country General Braddock, who was appointed to the command of all the troops and forces which were, or that should be raised in, or sent to North America; he landed at Williamsburgh, Virginia, in February, with two veteran regiments from Ireland, but sent his men up the Potomac to Alexandria, there to encamp until he was joined with the independent and provincial corps of America; with this army he was to penetrate through the country to Fort

Du Quesne (now Fort Pitt) by the rout of Will's creek to repel the French from the confines of the British settlements, and as no person was better acquainted with the frontier country than Colonel Washington, and no one in the colony enjoyed so well established a military character, he was judged to be highly serviceable to General Braddock; but from a royal arrangement of rank, by which "no officer who did not immediately derive his commission from the king, could command one who did," Colonel Washington cheerfully relinquished his regiment, and went as an extra aid-de-camp into the family of General Braddock. In this capacity at the battle of Monongahela, on the 9th of July, 1755, he attended that General, whose life was gallantry sacrificed in attempting to extricate his troops from that fatal ambuscade into which his overweening confidence had conducted them. Braddock had several horses shot under him, before he fell himself; and there was not an officer, whose duty obliged him to be on horseback that day, excepting Colonel Washington, who was not either killed or wounded. His duty and situation exposed him to every danger. He had two horses killed under him and four balls through his coat. Nothing but the superintending care of Providence could have saved him from the fate of all around him. This circumstance enabled him to display greater abilities in covering the retreat and

saving the wreck of the army, than he could otherwise have done As soon as he had secured their passage over the ford of the Monongahela, and found they were not pursued, he hasted to concert measures for their further security with Colonel Dunbar, who had remained with the second division and heavy baggage at some distance in the rear. To effect this, he travelled with two guides, all night, through an almost impervious wilderness, notwithstanding the fatigues he had undergone in the day, and although he had so imperfectly recovered from sickness, that he was obliged in the morning to be supported with cushions on his horse. The public accounts in Britain and America were not parsimonious of applause for the essential service he had rendered on so trying an occasion.

Not long after this time, the regulation of rank, which had been so injurious to the colonial officers was changed to their satisfaction, in consequence of the discontent of the officers, and the remonstrance of Colonel Washington. The supreme power of Virginia, impressed with a due sense of his merits, gave him, in a new and extensive commission, the command of all the troops raised and to be raised in that colony.

It would not comport with the intended brevity of this sketch, to mention in detail the plans he suggested, or the system he pursued for defending the frontiers, until the year 1758, when

he commanded the van brigade of General Forbes' army in the capture of Fort du Quesne. A similar reason will preclude the recital of the personal hazards and atchievements which happened in the course of his service.

After the evacuation of Fort Du Quesne by the French, the works were repaired and the new Fort was distinguished by the name of Fort *Pitt*, in honor of the great Statesman then at the head of the English administration.

The French being removed from the Ohio, and Indian hostility having, in a great measure, ceased, his health also being much impaired, and his domestic affairs requiring his attention; he determined to withdraw from a service, which he believed he might now quit without dishonor. He accordingly resigned his commission about the close of the year 1758.

Shortly after Colonel Washington's resignation, he married Mrs. Custis,* an amiable young widow, said to have possessed a fortune of twenty thousand pounds sterling (about eighty-eight thousand and nine hundred dollars) in her own right, besides her dower in one of the principal estates in Virginia With this lady Colonel Washington settled as a planter and farmer on his estate in Fairfax county, in Virginia.

After some years he gave up planting tobacco, and went altogether into the farming business.

* *General and Mrs. Washington were both born in one year.*

He has raised seven thousand bushels of wheat, and ten thousand bushels of corn, in one year. Although he has confined his own cultivation to his domestic tract of about nine thousand acres, yet he possessed excellent lands, in large quantities, in several other counties

After he left the army, until the year 1774, he thus cultivated the arts of peace. He was constantly a Member of Assembly, a Magistrate of his county, and a Judge of the court. At this period, he was appointed by the Assembly of Virginia, in conformity with the universal wish of the people, to be one of their four Delegates at the first General Congress of Delegates from all the provinces, which met at Philadelphia on the 26th of October, 1774, and consisted of fifty one members. It was with no small reluctance that he engaged again in the active scenes of life ; and we sincerely believe that no motives but such as spring from the most disinterested patriotism, could have prevailed upon him to relinquish the most refined domestic pleasure, which it was ever in his power to command, and the great delight he took in farming and the improvement of his estate.

He was also appointed Delegate to the Congress which assembled in 1775, in which it was at length determined, after every step towards an accommodation had failed, and every petition from America had been rejected, to repel

by force the invasion from Great-Britain. The eyes of the whole continent were immediately turned upon Mr. Washington. With one common voice he was called forth to the defence of his country; and it is, perhaps, his peculiar glory, that there was not a single inhabitant of these states, except himself, who did not approve the choice, and place the firmest confidence in his integrity and abilities.

He arrived at Cambridge in New-England, in July, 1775, and there took the supreme command of the army of the United Colonies. Previous to this period, hostilities had actually commenced. On the 19th of April, 1775, blood was first shed at the battle of Concord; and on the 16th of June following, the memorable battle of Breed's Hill, commonly called Bunker's Hill, was fought.

General Washington was received at the camp with that heartfelt exultation, which superior merit alone can inspire, after having, in his progress through the several states, received every mark of affection and esteem, which they considered were due to the man, whom the whole continent looked up to for safety and freedom.

The following Address was presented to him on his accepting the supreme command of the army, by the Provincial Congress of New-York.

ADDRESS,

Presented to His Excellency General Washington, by the Provincial Congress of New-York.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

At a time when the most loyal of his majesty's subjects, from a regard to the laws and constitution by which he sits on the throne, feel themselves reduced to the unhappy necessity of taking up arms, to defend their dearest rights and privileges—while we deplore the calamities of this empire, we rejoice in the appointment of a gentleman, from whose abilities and virtue we are taught to expect both security and peace.

Confiding in you, Sir, and in the worthy Generals immediately under your command, we have the most flattering hopes of success in the glorious struggle for American liberty, and the fullest assurances, that whenever this important contest shall be decided, by that fondest wish of each American soul, an accommodation with our mother country, you will cheerfully resign the important deposit committed into your hands, and reassume the character of our worthiest citizen.

By Order,

P. V. B. LIVINGSTON, *President.*

New-York, June 26th, 1775.

General Washington's Answer.

GENTLEMEN,

At the same time that with you I deplore the unhappy necessity of such an appointment, as that with which I am honored, I cannot but feel sentiments of the highest gratitude, for this affecting instance of distinction and regard.

May your warmest wishes be realised in the success of America, at this important and interesting period; and be assured that every exertion of my worthy colleagues and myself, will be equally extended to the re-establishment of peace and harmony, between the mother country and these colonies; as to the fatal but necessary operations of war, when we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen; and we shall most sincerely rejoice with you in that happy hour, when the establishment of American liberty, on the most firm and solid foundations, shall enable us to return to our private stations, in the bosom of a free, peaceful, and happy country.

G. WASHINGTON.

His conduct as a General and Commander in Chief, is well known. He underwent many hardships, dangers, and difficulties, and conducted his military operations with much skill and ability.

It would not comport with the intended brevity of the present memoirs, for us to particularize all his transactions in the course of the revolutionary war, as the impression which they made is yet fresh in the mind of every citizen.

But it is hoped, posterity will be taught, in what manner he transformed an undisciplined body of peasantry into a regular army of soldiers. Commentaries on his campaigns would undoubtedly be highly interesting and instructive to future generations. The conduct of his first campaign, in March, 1776, in compelling the British troops to abandon Boston, by a bloodless victory, will merit a minute narration. But a volume will scarcely contain the mortifications he experienced, and the hazards to which he was exposed, in the years 1776 and 1777, in contending against the prowess of Britain, with an inadequate force. Her armies were far superior to his in number, well organized and disciplined, inured to a camp life, commanded by officers well experienced in military tactics, and aided by powerful fleets, while his was composed of raw and undisciplined peasants, "just dragged from the tender scenes of domestic life—unaccustomed to the din of arms—totally unacquainted with every kind of military skill"—unused to the subordination so essentially requisite in an army, and often in want of arms, ammunition, clothes, and even food, often exposed to the inclemency of the weather,

in the most rigorous seasons, without tents, or even a blanket, and discouraged by the want of regular pay. These circumstances fully account for the unsuccessful issue of his first campaign.

The battle of Long-Island was fought in August, 1776; his army were driven from their post by the British; above two thousand Americans fell on the field, and about half that number were taken prisoners. Fort Washington on York Island, surrendered soon after, with two thousand prisoners: desertion and sickness added to his misfortunes. His army, which at the time Lord Howe landed on Long-Island, amounted to 25,000 men, was now reduced to about one eighth part of that number.

The approach of winter happily checked the progress of the enemy. General Washington's perseverance and intrepidity, improved this circumstance into important advantages. At Trenton, on the morning of the 26th of December, he surpised a body of the enemy's troops, who finding themselves surrounded, without further resistance, agreed to lay down their arms.—Twenty-five Officers, and nearly one thousand soldiers, were made prisoners; while the Americans had only three or four wounded.

On the 3d of January following, at Princeton, he made another successful attempt, where he took three hundred prisoners. These enterprises cheered the drooping spirits of his men, and again added reputation to the American arms.

He afterwards retired to Morristown, where he remained during the winter, with an inferior force, but with superior skill, checking the enemy from any further encroachments in that part of the country. We shall not enter into a minute description of the various battles and skirmishes, in which he was personally engaged during the campaign of 1777. At the battle of Brandywine, he made a gallant resistance, but was at last forced to quit his ground with the loss of about twelve hundred men killed, wounded, or taken prisoners. At Germantown he was repulsed with the loss of six hundred killed or wounded, and about four hundred prisoners. He afterwards retired to winter quarters, at Valley Forge. His army was at this time in a most miserable condition, marching without stockings or shoes, over the frozen ground, their feet were so gashed that their steps were marked with blood: Some hundreds of them were without blankets; and in this condition they were, in the middle of winter, to sit down in a forest, and build huts for shelter. The destitute situation of the American army, at all times, was certainly a means of procrastinating the war; oftentimes it was upon the eve of dissolution; even mutinies have been the consequence, while want of success prevented many of the soldiers from continuing longer than the period of their short enlistments, and caused frequent desertion. Indeed, nothing but the good destiny and con-

summate prudence of the Commander in Chief, prevented the want of success from producing want of confidence on the part of the public; for want of success is apt to lead to the adoption of pernicious counsels, through the levity of the people, or the ambition of their demagogues. In the three succeeding years, the germ of discipline unfolded; and the resources of America having been called into co-operation with the land and naval forces of France, produced the glorious conclusion of the campaign in 1781. On the 19th of Oct. of that year, the army under command of General Washington, forced that of the enemy, then under command of Lord Cornwallis, to make a final surrender; his land forces were made prisoners of war to Congress; and the naval forces were given up to France. From this time, the gloom began to disappear from our political horizon, and the affairs of the union proceeded in a meliorating train until a peace was most ably negotiated by our ambassadors in Europe, in 1783, by which thirteen of the American colonies were established as sovereign and independent states.

General Washington having never been in Europe, he could not possibly have seen much military service when the armies of England were sent to subdue America; yet still, for a variety of reasons, he was by much the most proper man on this continent, and probably any

where else, to be placed at the head of an American army. The very high estimation he stood in for integrity and honor, his engaging in the cause of his country from sentiment and a conviction of her wrongs, moderation in politics, his extensive popularity, and his approved abilities as a commander, were motives which necessarily obliged the choice of America to fall upon him.

That nature had given him extraordinary military talents, will hardly be controverted by his most bitter enemies; and having been early actuated with a warm passion to serve his country in the military line, he has greatly improved them by unwearied industry, and a close application to the best writers upon tactics, and by a more than common method and exactness: and, in reality, when it comes to be considered, that at first he only headed a body of men entirely unacquainted with military discipline or operations, somewhat ungovernable in temper, and who at best could only be styled an alert and good militia, acting under very short enlistments, unclothed, unaccoutred, and at all times very ill supplied with ammunition and artillery: and that with such an army he withstood the ravages and progress of nearly forty thousand veteran troops, plentifully provided with every necessary article; commanded by the bravest officers in Europe: and supported by a very powerful navy, which effectually prevented all move-

ments by water : when, we say, all this comes to be impartially considered, we think we may venture to pronounce, that General Washington will be regarded by mankind as one of the greatest military ornaments of the present age, and his name will command the veneration of the latest posterity.

No person, but those who had an opportunity of viewing the continental army, can form any adequate idea of its imperfect state when General Washington first assumed the command, nor was it without the most unwearied application and perseverance, which few men but him could have undergone that he was able to establish that disipline which ultimately aided his success. From the period he first assumed the command, until the final dissolution of the army, his care and anxiety for them continued. The army he considerd his family : and after the embarrassments of the day and the toil and fatigues of a battle, we find him stealing a portion of time allotted for rest, devising means the most salutary, for their amelioration, at all times characterized with that economy and frugality which the national resources required.

The following extracts from his official letters to Congress on this subject, are worthy of perusal ; they do ample justce to his feeling, and must make a lasting impression on the heart of his fellow soldiers

Extract of a letter from General Washington, to the honorable Congress, dated Cambridge, September 21, 1775.

"It gives me great pain to be obliged to solicit the attention of the honorable Congress to the state of this army, in terms which imply the slightest apprehension of being neglected. But my situation is inexpressibly distressing, to see the winter fast approaching upon a naked army: the time of their service within a few weeks of expiring; and no provision yet made for such important events. Added to these, the military chest is totally exhausted; the pay-master has not a single dollar in hand: the Commissary-General assures me he has strained his credit, for the subsistance of the army to the utmost.—The Quarter-Master-General is precisely in the same situation; and the greatest part of the troops are in a state not far from mutiny, upon the deduction from their stated allowance. I know not to whom I am to impute this failure; but I am of opinion, if the evil is not remedied, and more punctuality observed in future, the army must absolutely break up. I hoped I had so fully expressed myself on this subject, (both by letter, and to those members of the congress who honored the camp with a visit) that no disappointment could possibly happen. I therefore hourly expected advice from the pay-master that he had

received a fresh supply, in addition to the hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars delivered him in August: and thought myself warranted to assure the public creditors that in a few days they should be satisfied. But the delay has brought matters to such a crisis, as admits of no further uncertain expectation. I have therefore sent off this express, with orders to make all possible despatch. It is my most earnest request that he may be returned with all possible expedition, unless the honorable Congress have already forwarded what is so indispensably necessary."

I have the honor to be, &c.

G. W.

Letter from General Washington, to the President of Congress.

New-York, July 25, 1776.

" SIR—DISAGREEABLE as it is to me, and unpleasing as it may be to Congress, to multiply officers, I find myself under the unavoidable necessity of asking an increase of my aids-de-camp. The augmentation of my command; the increase of my correspondence; the orders to give; the instructions to draw; cut out more business than I am able to execute in time with propriety. The business of so many different departments centering with me, and by me to be handed to Congress for their informa-

tion; added to the intercourse I am obliged to keep up with the adjacent states; and incidental occurrences; all which require confidential and not hack writers to execute; renders it impossible, in the present state of things, for my family to discharge the several duties expected of me, with that precision and despatch that I could wish. What will it be then, when we come into a more active scene, and I am called from twenty different places perhaps at the same instant?

"Congress will do me the justice to believe (I hope) that it is not my inclination or wish to run the continent to any unnecessary expense; and those who better know me, will not suspect that show and parade can have any influence on my mind in this instance. A conviction of the necessity of it for the regular discharge of the trust reposed in me, is the governing motive for the application; and, as such is submitted to Congress, by

Sir, Your most obedient, &c.

G. W."

Extract of a letter from General Washington, to the President of Congress.

New-York, September 2, 1776.

"SIR—As my intelligence of late has been rather unfavorable, and would be received with anxiety and concern; peculiarly happy should

I esteem myself, were it in my power at this time, to transmit such information to Congress as would be more pleasing and agreeable to their wishes; but unfortunately for them, it is not.

"Our situation is truly distressing. The check our detachment sustained on the twenty-seventh ultimo, has dispirited too great a proportion of our troops, and filled their minds with apprehension and despair. The militia, instead of calling forth their utmost efforts to brave and manly opposition in order to repair our losses, are dismayed, untractable, and impatient to return. Great numbers of them have gone off; in some instances, almost by whole regiments, by half ones, and by companies at a time. This circumstance, of itself, independent of others, when fronted by a well-appointed enemy, superior in number to our whole collected force, would be sufficiently disagreeable: but, when their example has infected another part of the army; when their want of discipline, and refusal of almost every kind of restraint and government, have produced a like conduct but too common to the whole, and an entire disregard of that order and subordination necessary to the well doing of an army, and which has been inculcated before, as well as the nature of our military establishment would admit of; our condition is still more alarming, and with the deepest concern I am obliged to confess my want of confidence in the generality of the troops.

"All these circumstances fully confirm the opinion I ever entertained, and which I more than once in my letters took the liberty of mentioning to Congress, that no dependance could be put in a militia, or other troops than those enlisted and embodied for a longer period than our regulations heretofore prescribed. I am persuaded, and as fully convinced as I am of any one fact that has happened, that our liberties must of necessity be greatly hazarded, if not entirely lost, if their defence is left to any but a permanent standing army; I mean one to exist during the war. Nor would the expense, incident to the support of such a body of troops as would be competent to almost every exigency, far exceed that which is daily incurred by calling in succor, and new enlistments, which, when effected, are not attended with any good consequences. Men who have been free, and subject to no controul, cannot be reduced to order in an instant; and the privileges and exemptions they claim, and will have, influence the conduct of others; and the aid derived from them is nearly counterbalanced by the disorder, irregularity, and confusion they occasion.

"I cannot find that the bounty of ten dollars is likely to produce the desired effect. When men can get double that sum to engage for a month or two in the militia, and that militia frequently called out, it is hardly to be expected.

The addition of land might have a considerable influence on a permanent enlistment.

Letter from General Washington, to the President of Congress.

Col. Morris's, on the Heights of Harlaem, September 24th, 1776.

"SIR—From the hours allotted to sleep, I will borrow a few moments to convey my thoughts on sundry important matters to Congress. I shall offer them with the sincerity which ought to characterize a man of candor, and with the freedom which may be used in giving useful information, without incurring the imputation of presumption.

"We are now, as it were, upon the eve of another dissolution of our army. The remembrance of the difficulties which happened upon the occasion last year, the consequences which might have followed the change, if proper advantages had been taken by the enemy, added to a knowledge of the present temper and situation of the troops, reflect but a gloomy prospect upon the appearances of things now, and satisfy me beyond the possibility of doubt, that unless some speedy and effectual measures are adopted by Congress, our cause will be lost.

"It is in vain to expect that any, or more than a trifling part of this army, will again engage in the service on the encouragement offered by Congress; when men find that their townsmen and companions are receiving twenty, thirty, and more dollars, for a few months' service (which is truly the case;) it cannot be expected, without using compulsion: and to force them into the service would answer no valuable purpose. When men are irritated, and the passions inflamed, they fly hastily and cheerfully to arms; but after the first emotions are over * * *, a soldier, reasoned with upon the goodness of the cause he is engaged in, and the inestimable rights he is contending for, hears you with patience, and acknowledges the truth of your observations, but adds, that it is of no more importance to him than others. The officer makes you the same reply, with this further remark, that his pay will not support him, and he cannot ruin himself and family to serve his country, when every member of the community is equally interested and benefited by his labors. * * *

"It becomes evidently clear, then, that as this contest is not likely to be the work of a day—as the war must be carried on systematically—and to do it you must have good officers—there are, in my judgment, no other possible means to obtain them but by establishing your army upon a permanent footing, and giving

your officers good pay. This will induce gentlemen and men of character to engage: and, till the bulk of your officers are composed of such persons as are actuated by principles of honor and a spirit of enterprise, you have little to expect from them. They ought to have such allowances as will enable them to live like and support the characters of gentlemen. * * * Besides, something is due to the man who puts his life in [*your*] hands, hazards his health, and forsakes the sweets of domestic enjoyment. Why a captain in the continental service should receive no more than five shillings currency per day for performing the same duties that an officer of that rank in the British service receives ten shillings sterling for, I never could conceive; especially, when the latter is provided with every necessary he requires upon the best terms, and the former can scarcely procure them at any rate. There is nothing which gives a man consequence and renders him fit for commaud like a support that renders him independent of every body but the state he serves.

"With respect to the men, nothing but a good bounty can obtain them upon a permanent establishment; and for no shorter time than the continuance of the war, ought they to be engaged; as facts incontestibly prove that the difficulty and cost of enlistments increase with time.—When the army was first raised at Cambridge, I am persuaded that the men might

have been got, without a bounty, for the war. After this they began to see that the contest was not likely to end so speedily as was imagined, and to feel their consequence by remarking that to get in the militia in the course of the last year, many towns were induced to give them a bounty.

"Foreseeing the evils resulting from this, and the destructive consequences which unavoidably would follow short enlistments. I took the liberty in a long letter (date not now recollected, as my letter book is not here) to recommend the enlistments for and during the war, assigning such reasons for it as experience has since convinced me were well founded. At that time, twenty dollars would, I am persuaded, have engaged the men for this term. But it will not do to look back; and if the present opportunity is slipped, I am persuaded that twelve months more will increase our difficulties four-fold. I shall therefore take the freedom of giving it as my opinion, that a good bounty be immediately offered, aided by the proffer of at least a hundred or a hundred and fifty acres of land, and a suit of clothes and blanket to each non-commissioned officer and soldier: as I have good authority for saying, that, however high the men's pay may appear, it is barely sufficient, in the present scarcity and dearness of all kinds of goods, to keep them in clothes, much less afford support to their families.

"If this encouragement then is given to the men, and such pay allowed the officers as will induce gentlemen of character and liberal sentiments to engage, and proper care and precaution used in the nomination (having more regard to the characters of persons than the number of men they can enlist) we should in a little time have an army able to cope with any that can be opposed to it, as there are excellent materials to form one out of. But while the only merit an officer possesses is his ability to raise men, while those men consider and treat him as an equal, and (in the character of an officer) regard him no more than a broomstick, being mixed together in one common herd, no order nor discipline can prevail; nor will the office ever meet with that respect which is essentially necessary to due subordination.

"To place any dependance upon militia is assuredly resting upon a broken staff—men just dragged from the tender scenes of domestic life, —unaccustomed to the din of arms,—totally unacquainted with every kind of military skill: which being followed by want of confidence in themselves, when opposed to troops regularly trained, disciplined, and appointed, superior in arms, makes them timid and ready to fly from their own shadows. Besides, the sudden change in their manner of living (particularly in lodging,) brings on sickness in many, impatience in all, and such an unconquerable desire of return-

ing to their respective homes, that it not only produces shameful and scandalous desertisons among themselves, but infuses the like spirit into others.

"Again; men accustomed to unbounded freedom and no controul, cannot brook the restraint which is indispensably necessary to the good order and government of an army; without which, licentiousness and every kind of disorder triumphantly reign. To bring men to a proper degree of subordination is not the work of a day, a month, or even a year; and unhappily for us and the cause we are engaged in, the little discipline I have been laboring to establish in the army under my immediate command, is in a manner done away, by such a mixture of troops as have been called together within these few months.

"Relaxed and unfit as our rules and regulations of war are for the government of an army, the militia (those properly so called; for of these we have two sorts, the six-months men, and those sent in as a temporary aid,) do not think themselves subject to them, and therefore take liberties which the soldier is punished for. This creates jealousy; jealousy begets dissatisfaction; and these by degrees ripen into mutiny, keeping the whole army in a confused and disordered state; rendering the time of those who wish to see regularity and good order prevail, more unhappy than words can describe.

Besides this, such repeated changes take place, that all arrangement is set at nought, and the constant fluctuation of things deranges every plan as fast as adopted

"These, sir, Congress may be assured, are but a small part of the inconveniencies which might be enumerated, and attributed to militia: but there is one that merits particular attention, and that is the expense. Certain I am, that it would be cheaper to keep fifty or an hundred thousand in constant pay, than to depend upon half the number, and supply the other half occasionally by militia. The time the latter are in pay before and after they are in camp, assembling and marching; the waste of ammunition, and the consumption of stores, which in spite of every resolution or requisition of Congress, they must be furnished with, or sent home; added to other incidental expenses consequent upon their coming and conduct in camp, surpasses all idea, and destroys every kind of regularity and economy which you could establish among fixed and settled troops, and will, in my opinion, prove (if the scheme is adhered to) the ruin of our cause

"The jealousies of a standing army, and the evils to be apprehended from one, are remote, and, in my judgment, situated and circumstanced as we are, not at all to be dreaded; but the consequence of wanting one, according to my ideas formed from the present view of things,

is certain and inevitable ruin. For if I was called upon oath, whether the militia have been most serviceable or hurtful upon the whole, I should subscribe to the latter. I do not mean by this, however, to arraign the conduct of Congress: in so doing, I should equally condemn my own measures, if not my judgment: but experience, which is the best criterion to work by, so fully, clearly, and decisively reprobates the practice of trusting to militia, that no man who regards order, regularity, and economy, or who has any regard to his own honor, character, or peace of mind, will risk them upon this issue. * * *

"An army formed of good officers, moves like clock-work: but there is no situation upon earth less enviable nor more distressing than that person who is at the head of troops who are regardless of order and disipline, who are unprovided with almost every necessary. In a word, the difficulties which have for ever surrounded me since I have been in the service, and kept my mind constantly upon the stretch—the wounds, which my feelings (as an officer) have received by a thousand things which have happened contrary to my expectation and wishes, * * * *—add to a consciousness of my inability to govern an army composed of such discordant parts, and under such a variety of intricate and perplexing circumstances—induce not only a belief, but a borough conviction in my mind, that

it will be impossible (unless there is a thorough change in our military system) for me to conduct in such a manner as to give satisfaction to the public, which is all the recompense I aim at, or ever wished for.

"Before I conclude, I must apologize for the liberties taken in this letter, and for the blots and scratchings therein, not having time to give it more correctly. With truth I can add, that, with every sentiment of respect and esteem, I am yours and the Congress' most obedient, &c.

G. W."

Correspondence between General Washington and General Gage, respecting the bad treatment of prisoners.

Letter from His Excellency General Washington, to General Gage.

Head-Quarters, Cambridge, Aug. 11, 1775.

"SIR—I understand that the officers, engaged in the cause of liberty and their country, who by the fortune of war, have fallen into your hands, have been thrown indiscriminately into a common gaol, appropriated for felons—that no consideration has been made for those of the most respectable rank, when languishing with wounds and sickness—that some of them have been amputated in this unworthy situation.

"Let your opinion, Sir, of the principle which actuates them, be what it may, they suppose they act from the noblest of all principles, a love of freedom and their country. But political opinions, I conceive, are foreign to this point. The obligations arising from the right of humanity and claims of rank, are universally binding and extensive, except in case of retaliation. These, I should have hoped, would have dictated a more tender treatment of those individuals, whom chance of war had put in your power. Nor can I forbear suggesting its fatal tendency to widen that unhappy breach, which you, and those ministers under whom you act, have repeatedly declared you wish to see for ever closed.

"My duty now makes it necessary to apprise you, that for the future, I shall regulate my conduct towards those gentlemen of your army, who are or may be in our possession, exactly by the rule you may observe towards those of ours, who may be in your custody.

"If severity and hardship mark the line of your conduct, (painful as it may be to me) your prisoners will feel its effects; but if kindness and humanity are shown to ours, I shall, with pleasure, consider those in our hands, only as unfortunate, and they shall receive from me that treatment to which the unfortunate are entitled.

"I beg to be favored with an answer as soon as possible, and am, Sir, your humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON".

His Excellency General Gage.

ANSWER.

Boston, August 13, 1775.

" SIR—To the glory of civilized nations, humanity and war have been compatible; and compassion to the subdued is become almost a general system.

" Britons, ever pre-eminent in mercy, have outgone common examples, and overlooked the criminal in the captive. Upon these principles your prisoners, whose lives, by the laws of the land, are destined to the cord, have hitherto been treated with kindness, and more comfortably lodged than the king's troops in the hospitals; indiscriminately, it is true, for I acknowledge no rank that is not derived from the king.

" My intelligence from your army would justify recrimination. I understand there are some of the king's faithful subjects, taken some time since by the rebels, laboring like Negro slaves, to gain their daily subsistence, or reduced to the wretched alternative, to perish by famine, or take up arms against their king and country. Those, who have made the treatment of the prisoners in my hands, or of your other friends in Boston, a pretence for such measures, founded barbarity upon falsehood.

" I would willingly hope, sir, that the sentiments of liberality which I have always believed you to possess, will be exerted to correct

their misdoings Be temperate in political disquisition ; give free operation to truth, and punish those who deceive and misrepresent; and not only the effects, but the causes of this unhappy conflict will soon be removed.

" Should those, under whose usurped authority you act, controul such a disposition, and dare to call severity retaliation, to God, who knows all hearts, be the appeal for the dreadful consequences. I trust, that British soldiers, asserting the rights of the state, the law of the land, the being of the constitution, will meet all events with becoming fortitude. They will court victory with the spirit their cause inspires, and from the same motives, will find the patience of martyrs under misfortune.

" Till I read your insinuations in regard to ministers, I conceived that I had acted under the king ; whose wishes, it is true, as well as those of his ministers, and of every honest man, have been to see this unhappy breach closed, but unfortunately for both countries, those who have long since projected the present crisis, and influence the councils of America, have views very distant from accommodation.

" I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant.

" THOMAS GAGE.

" *George Washington, Esq.*"

REPLY.

Head-Quarters, Cambridge, Aug. 19, 1775.

"SIR—I addressed you on the 11th instant, in terms which gave the fairest scope for the exercise of that humanity and politeness, which were supposed to form a part of your character. I remonstrated with you on the unworthy treatment shown to the officers and citizens of America, whom the fortune of war, chance, or a mistaken confidence, had thrown into your hands.

"Whether British or American mercy, fortitude and patience, are most pre-eminent—whether our virtuous citizens, whom the hand of tyranny has forced into arms, to defend their wives, their children, and their property, or the mercenary instruments of lawless domination, avarice, and revenge, best deserve the appellation of rebels, and the punishment of that cord, which your affected clemency has forborn to inflict—whether the authority under which I act, is usurped, or founded on the genuine principles of liberty, were altogether foreign to the subject. I purposely avoided all political disquisition; nor shall I now avail myself of those advantages, which the sacred cause of my country, of liberty, and human nature, give me over you; much less shall I stoop to retort any invective. But the intelligence, you say you have received from our army, requires a

reply. I have taken time, sir, to make a strict inquiry, and find that it has not the least foundation of truth. Not only your officers and soldiers have been treated with a tenderness due to fellow-citizens and brethren, but even those execrable parricides, whose councils and aid deluged their country in blood, have been protected from the fury of a justly enraged people. Far from compelling or permitting their assistance, I am embarrassed with the numbers who crowd to our camp, animated with the purest principles of virtue and love of their country. You advise me to give free operation to truth; to punish misrepresentation and falsehood. If experience stamps value upon counsel, yours must have a weight which few can claim. You best can tell how far the convulsion, which has brought such ruin on both countries, and shaken the mighty empire of Britain to its foundation, may be traced to these malignant causes.

"You affect, sir, to despise all rank, not derived from the same source with your own. I cannot conceive one more honorable, than that which flows from the uncorrupted choice of a brave and free people, the purest source and original fountain of all power. Far from making it a plea for cruelty, a mind of true magnanimity and enlarged ideas, would comprehend and respect it.

"What may have been the ministerial views which have precipitated the present crisis, Lex-

ington, Concord, and Charlestown, can best declare. May that God, to whom you then appealed, judge between America and you. Under his Providence, those who influence the councils of America, and all the other inhabitants of the United Colonies, at the hazard of their lives, are determined to hand down to posterity, those just and invaluable privileges which they received from their ancestors

"I shall now, sir, close my correspondence with you, perhaps for ever. If your officers, our prisoners, receive a treatment from me, different from what I wished to shew them, they and you will remember the occasion of it.

"I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

"G. WASHINGTON.

"*General Gage.*"

The preceding letters will ever convey to the world a sufficient testimony of the attention and care, which, at all times, General Washington extended to the soldiers under his command.

To those ungrateful few, who, stimulated by malice, have therefore endeavored to sully his honor and military reputation, and to impress upon the public mind, the ungenerous idea, that he was instrumental to the shedding of innocent blood, and inflicting wanton cruelty upon the prisoners of the enemy, we recommend a peru-

sal of his letters to Congress upon that subject: there they will find him combating the idea with the language of reason, and censuring the inhuman practice. The historians of the American war have uniformly represented the case of Major Andre, as an example of murder, on the part of America. On this occasion, Gen. Washington sacrificed his own feelings, to the "necessities of inexorable justice." The sentence was pronounced with much hesitation, and, at its execution, he was seen to shed tears. Nor is it necessary for us to remind them of his fortitude to withstand the threats, or virtue to scorn the bribes of the emmissaries of the British cabinet, for one uniform principle of prudence and wisdom seems to have regulated every transaction of his life.

When General Washington received the joyful intelligence of peace, he expressed himself to the army which had accompanied him through the dangers, toils, and difficulties of this glorious struggle, in an address calculated to awaken emotions of joy and triumph, but pointedly discountenancing disorder and licentiousness. He assured them, that there would be no delay in discharging them with every mark of distinction and honor.

On the 26th of August, 1783, General Washington, at the request of Congress, proceeded to Princeton, where the Congress was then sitting, and being introduced by two members, the President addressed him as follows, to wit:—

"SIR—Congress feel particular pleasure in seeing your Excellency, and in congratulating you on the success of a war, in which you have acted so couspicuous a part.

"It has been the singular happiness of the U. States, that during a war so long, so dangerous, and so important, Providence has been graciously pleased to preserve the life of a General, who has merited and possesed the uninterrupted confidence and affection of his fellow-citizens. In other nations, many have performed services for which they have deserved and received the thanks of the public; but to you, Sir, peculiar praise is due: your services have been essential in acquiring and establishing the freedom and independence of your country; they deserve the grateful acknowledgments of a free and independent nation; those acknowledgments Congress have the satisfaction of expressing to your Excellency.

"Hostilities have now ceased, but your country still needs your services; she wishes to avail herself of your talents in forming the arrangements which will be necessary for her in the time peace; for this reason, your attendance at Congress has been requested. A committee is appointed to confer with your Excellency, and receive your assistance in preparing and adjusting plans relative to those important objects."

To which His Excellency made the following REPLY.

"Mr. President,

"I am too sensible of the honorable reception I have now experienced, not to be penetrated with the deepest feelings of gratitude.

"Notwithstanding Congress appear to estimate the value of my life beyond any services I have been able to render the United States, yet I must be permitted to consider the wisdom and unanimity of our National Counsels, the firmness of our citizens, and the patience and bravery of our troops, which have produced so happy a termination of the war, as the most conspicuous effects of the Divine interposition, and the surest presages of our future happiness.

"Highly gratified by the favorable sentiments which Congress are pleased to express of my conduct, and amply rewarded by the confidence and affection of my fellow-citizens, I cannot hesitate to contribute my best endeavors towards the establishment of the national security in whatever manner the sovereign power may think proper to direct, until the ratification of the definitive treaty of peace, or the final evacuation of our country by the British forces; after either of which events, I shall ask permission to retire to the peaceful shade of private life.

"Perhaps, Sir, no occasion may offer more suitable than the present, to express my humble thanks to God, and my grateful acknowledg-

ments to my country, for the great and uniform support I have received in every vicissitude of fortune, and for the many distinguished honors which Congress have been pleased to confer upon me in the course of the war."

After the final conclusion of the peace in 1783, a proclamation was issued by Congress, October 18th, directing the discharge of the army; whereupon General Washington, before he resigned his important charge, delivered the following elegant and pathetic address to the officers and soldiers under his command, viz.

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S

Farewell Orders to the Armies of the U. States.

Rocky-Hill, near Princeton, Nov. 2, 1783.

THE United States in Congress assembled, after giving the most honorable testimony to the federal armies, and presenting them with the thanks of their country, for their long, eminent and faithful services—having thought proper, by their proclamation, bearing date the 18th of October last, to discharge such part of the troops as were engaged for the war, and to permit the officers on furlough to retire from service, from and after to-morrow, which hav-

ing been communicated in the public papers for the information and government of all concerned; it only remains for the Commander in Chief to address himself once more, and that for the last time, to the armies of the United States (however widely dispersed the individuals who compose them may be) and bid them an affectionate—a long farewell.

But before the Commander in Chief takes his final leave of those he holds most dear, he wishes to indulge himself a few moments in calling to mind a slight review of the past—he will then take the liberty of exploring, with his military friends, their future propects ; of advising the general line of conduct which, in his opinion, ought to be pursued ; and he will conclude the address, by expressing the obligations he feels himself under for the spirited and able assistance he has experienced from them, in the performance of an arduous office.

A contemplation of the complete attainment, at a period earlier than could have been expected, of the object for which we contended, against so formidable a power, cannot but inspire us with astonishment and gratitude. The disadvantageous circumstances on our part, under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. The signal interpositions of Providence, in our feeble condition, were such as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving ; while the unparalleled perse-

verance of the armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement, for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.

It is not the meaning, nor within the compass of this address, to detail the hardships peculiarly incident to our service, or to describe the distresses, which, in several instances, have resulted from the extremes of hunger and nakedness combined with the rigors of an inclement season; nor is it necessary to dwell on the dark side of our past affairs. Every American officer and soldier must now console himself for any unpleasant circumstances which may have occured by the recollection of the uncommon scenes in which he has been called to act no inglorious part, and the astonishing events of which he has been a witness; events which have seldom, if ever before, taken place on the stage of human action, nor can they probably ever happen again. For who has before seen a disiplined army formed at once from such raw materials? Who that was not a witness, could imagine, that the most violent local prejudices would cease so soon, and that men who came from the different parts of the continent, strongly disposed, by the habits of education, to despise and quarrel with each other, would instantly become but one patriotic band of brothers? Or who that was not on the spot, can trace the steps, by which such a wonderful revolution has been effected,

and such a glorious period put to all our warlike toils?

It is universally acknowledged that the enlarged prospects of happiness, opened by the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, almost exceed the power of description: and shall not the brave men who have contributed so essentially to these inestimable acquisitions, retiring victorious from the field of war to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings which have been obtained? In such a republic, who will exclude them from the rights of citizens, and the fruits of their labors? In such a country, so happily circumstanced, the pursuits of commerce and the cultivation of the soil will unfold to industry the certain road to competence. To those hardy soldiers, who are actuated by the spirit of adventure, the fisheries will afford ample and profitable employment; and the extensive and fertile regions of the west will yield a most happy assylum to those, who, fond of domestic enjoyment, are seeking for personal independence. Nor is it possible to conceive that any of the United States will prefer a national bankruptcy, and a dissolution of the union, to a compliance with the requisition of Congress and the payment of its just debts—so that the officers and the soldiers may expect considerable assistance, in recommencing their civil occupation, from the sums due to them from the public, which must and will most inevitably be paid.

In order to effect this desirable purpose, and to remove the prejudices which may have taken possession of the minds of any of the good people of the states, it is earnestly recommended to all the troops, that, with strong attachment to the union, they should carry with them into civil society the most conciliating dipositions; and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and useful as citizens, than they have been persevering and victorious as soldiers. What though there should be some envious individuals, who are unwilling to pay the debt the public has contracted, or to yield the tribute due to merit, yet let such unworthy treatment produce no invective, or any instance of intemperate conduct—let it be remembered, that the unbiassed voice of the free citizens of the United States has promised the just reward, and given the merited applause; let it be known and remembered, that the reputation of the federal armies is established beyond the reach of malevolence; and let a consciousness of their atchievments and fame still incite the men who composed them, to honorable actions, under the persuasion, that the virtues of economy, prudence, and industry, will not be less amiable in civil life, than the more splendid qualities of valor, perseverence, and enterprise, were in the field. Every one may rest assured, that much of the future happiness of the officers and men, will depend upon the wise

and manly conduct which shall be adopted by them, when they are mingled with the great body of the community. And, although the General has so frequently given it as his opinion, in the most public and explicit manner, that unless the principles of the federal government were properly supported, and the powers of the union increased, the honor, dignity, and justice of the nation would be lost for ever; yet he cannot help repeating on this occasion so interesting a sentiment, and leaving it as his last injunction to every officer and soldier, who may view the subject in the same serious point of light, to add his best endeavours, to those of his worthy fellow-citizens, towards effecting these great and valuable purposes, on which our very existence as a nation so materially depends.

The Commander in Chief conceives little is now wanting to enable the soldier to change his military character into that of the citizen, but that steady and decent tenor of behaviour which has generally distinguished, not only the army under his immediate command, but the different detatchments and separate armies, through the course of the war. From their good sense and prudence he anticipates the happiest consequences—and while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligations he

feels himself under, for the assistance he has received from every class, and in every instance. He presents his thanks in the most serious and affectionate manner to the general officers, as well for their counsel on many interesting occasions, as for their ardor in promoting the success of the plans he had adopted; to the commandants of regiments and corps, and to the other officers, for their great zeal and attention in carrying his orders promptly into execution; to the staff, for their alacrity and exactness is performing the duties of their several departments; and to the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, for their extraordinary patience, in suffering as well as their invincible fortitude in action; to the various branches of the army, the General takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship. He wishes more than bare professions were in his power; that he was really able to be useful to them all in future life. He flatters himself, however, they will do him the justice to believe, that whatever could with propriety be attempted by him, has been done. And being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave in a short time, of the military character—and to bid a final adieu to the armies he has so long had the honor to command—he can only again offer, in their behalf, his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayers to the

God of armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choisest of Heaven's favors, both here and hereafter, attend those who, under the Divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others! With these wishes, and this benediction, the Commander in Chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn—and the military scene, to him, will be closed for ever. *E. Hand adj. gen.*

To the preceding address the officers of that part of the army remaining on the banks of the Hudson, returned a suitable answer; they thanked the Commander in Chief for the communication of his affectionate assurances of his inviolable attachment and friendship; they assured his Excellency that although as yet his endeavours to ensure the armies the just reward of their services, had failed of success, they were convinced that it had arisen from causes which it was not in his power to controul, and should the contemplated measure never be attained, that their patriotism should still remain unshaken: They were happy in the opportunity of congratulating his Excellency on the certain conclusion of the *Definitive Treaty of Peace*, assuring him that, relieved at last from long suspense, their warmest wish

was to return to the bosom of their country, to resume the character of citizens; and that it should be their highest ambition to become useful ones. To his Excellency they were convinced that this great event must be peculialy pleasing; because, while at the head of the armies, urged by patriotic virtues and magnanimity, he persevered, under the pressure of every possible difficulty and discouragement, in the pursuit of the great objects of the war—the freedom and safety of his country;—his heart panted for the tranquil enjoyments of peace. They concluded with sincere prayers to God, long to bestow happiness to their commander, and that when he quits the stage of human life, he may receive from the UNNERING JUDGE, the rewards of valor exerted to save the oppressed, of patriotism, and disinterested virtue.

On the 25th Nov. 1783, New-York was evacuated by the British army; on the same day the American troops marched in and took possession of the city; after which General Washington and the Governor made their public entry.

Previous to General Washington's leaving New-York, on the 6th of December, the principal officers of the army then in the city, assembled at Francis' tavern, to take a final leave of their illustrious and much-loved commander. The passions of human nature were never more tenderly agitated than in this inter-

esting scene. His Excellency having filled a glass of wine, thus addressed his brave fellow soldiers:—

"*With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you: I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be prosperous and happy, as your former ones have been glorious and honorable.*"

These words produced extreme sensibility on both sides; they were answered by warm expressions, and fervent wishes, from the gentlemen of the army, whose truly pathetic feelings it is not in our power to convey to the reader.

General Washington's Address to Congress, on the Resignation of his Commission.

"Mr President,

"The great events, on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honor of offering my sincere congratulations to Congress, and of presenting myself before them, to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country.

"Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becom-

ing a respectable nation—I resign, with satisfaction, the appointment I accepted with diffidence, a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which, however, was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the union, and the patronage of Heaven.

"The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest.

"While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge, in this place, the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the war. It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should be more fortunate; permit me, sir, to recommend in particular those who have continued in the service to the present moment, as worthy the favorable notice and patronage of Congress.

"I consider it as an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendance of them to his holy keeping.

"Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action; and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.

G. WASHINGTON."

City of Annapolis, Dec. 23, 1783.

With these becoming sentiments, General Washington retired from the toils of war to enjoy in private the rural pleasures of Mount Vernon, carrying with him the thanks and blessings of a grateful people, emulating the example of the virtuous Roman General,* who victorious, left the tended field, covered with honor, and withdrew from public life.

No person, who had not the advantage of being present when he received the intelligence of peace, and who did not accompany him to his domestic retirement, can describe the relief which that joyful event brought to his laboring mind, or the supreme satisfaction with which he withdrew to private life. From his triumphal entry into New-York, upon the evacuation of that city by the British army, to

* *Cincinatus.*

his arrival at Mount Vernon, after the resignation of his commission to Congress, festive crowds impeded his passage through all the populous towns; the devotion of a whole people pursued him, with prayers to Heaven for blessings on his head, while their gratitude sought the most expressive language in manifesting itself to him, as their common father and benefactor. When he became a private citizen he had the unusual felicity to find that his native state was among the most zealous in doing justice to his merits; and that stronger demonstrations of affectionate esteem (if possible) were given by the citizens of his neighborhood, than by any other description of men on the continent. As he always refused to accept any pecuniary compensation for his public services, or provision for the augmented expenses which he must have incured in consequence of his public employment, no salary was ever annexed by Congress to his important command, and he only drew weekly for the expenses of his public table and other necessary demands, although proposals have been made in the most delicate manner particularly by the state of Virginia and Pennsylvania. His conduct in this particular is noble and magnanimous, and exhibits to the world an undeniable evidence of self-disinterestedness, of the purity of his motives, and integrity of his heart. His answer to the Governor of Virginia, declining

the acceptance of a present from that state, is so characteristic of his whole public conduct, that we are induced to give it in his own words, and we are convinced it will prove acceptable to his admirers.

LETTER,

From his Excellency General Washington, to the Governor of Virginia, declining the acceptance of fifty shares in the companies for opening the navigation of James and Potomac Rivers, which had been vested in him by an act of the legislature of that commonwealth, as a small acknowledgement of his merits and services.

"YOUR Excellency having been pleased to transmit to me a copy of the act appropriating to my benefit, certain shares in the companies for opening the navigation of James and Potomac rivers, I take the liberty of returning to the assembly, through your hands, the profound and grateful acknowledgments, inspired by so signal a mark of their beneficent intentions towards me. I beg you, sir, to assure them, that I am filled on this occasion with every sentiment which can flow from a heart warm with love for my country—sensible to every

token of its approbation and affection, and solicitous to testify, in every instance, a respectful submission to its wishes. With these sentiments in my bosom, I need not dwell on the anxiety I feel, in being obliged in this instance to decline a favor, which is rendered no less flattering by the manner in which it is conveyed, than it is affectionate in itself. In explaining this obligation, I pass over a comparison of my endeavors in the public service, with the many honorable testimonies of approbation which have already so far over-rated and over-paid them—reciting one consideration only, which supersedes the necessity of recurring to every other. When I was first called to the station with which I was honored during the late conflict for our liberties; to the diffidence which I had so many reasons to feel in accepting it, I thought it my duty to join *a firm resolution to shut my hand against every pecuniary recompense.* To this resolution I have inviolably adhered; and from this resolution (if I had the inclination) I do not consider myself at liberty to depart. Whilst I repeat, therefore my fervent acknowledgments to the legislature for their very kind sentiments and intentions in my favor, and at the same time beg them to be persuaded that a remembrance of this singular proof of goodness towards me, will never cease to cherish returns of the warmest affection and gratitude; I must pray that their act, so far as

it has for its object my personal emolument, may not have its effect. But if it should please the general assembly to permit me to turn the destination of the fund vested in me, from my private emolument to objects of a public nature, it will be my study in selecting these, to prove the sincerity of my gratitude, by prefering such as may appear most subservient to the enlightened and patriotic views of the legislature.

I am, &c.

GEORGE WASHINGTON."

Although the enlightened mind of General Washington felt superior to such considerations, and nobly refused any recompense for himself, yet he eloquently, though unsuccessfully pleaded the cause of his fellow-soldiers, and other public creditors. He considered himself as pledged to the army that their country would do them ample justice in rewarding them for their glorious services, exercised in its defence, and finally crowned by the complete establishment of its liberty and independence.

General Washington, having retired from all public employment, now assumed the character of a private gentleman; he employed himself in improving his farms and plantations, and in cultivating the arts of peace. But in this retreat of happiness and rural simplicity he was not suffered long to remain; it was too soon for the *Father of America* to leave his infant care, his

well tried virtues were generally and justly known to his fellow-citizens, and their confidence in his judgment, experience, and disinterested patriotism, was universal even to enthusiasm. Four years had not expired from the period at which he resigned his military command, when the voice of his country again called him to its service—in the year 1787, he was elected a delegate to the federal convention which met at Philadelphia to form the new constitution, and was chosen President thereof. General Washington, after the adoption of the federal constitution, was, on the 6th of April, 1789, unanimously elected President of the United States —whereupon the citizens testified with becoming joy, their confidence and approbation at his appointment to the office of Chief Magistrate, and innumerable addresses reiterated his praise, from every part of the union.

His triumphal entry into Philadelphia on his way to New-York, the seat of government, to assume the duties of his important office, merits a minute description—Early on the morning of the 20th of April, his Excellency T. Mifflin, Esq. Governor of the state, the Hon. Richard Peters, Esq. speaker of the legislature of the state, the old city troop of horse, and another troop from the city, commanded by captain Bingham, waited the arrival of their beloved *Washington*, at the line between the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware, to which place they had proceeded the evening before.

After paying the tribute of military honor due to his rank and exalted character, by proper salutes, and otherwise, they escorted him into Chester, where they breakfasted, and rested a couple of hours.

This great and worthy man, finding he could not possibly elude the parade which necessarily must attend manifestations of joy and affection, when displayed by a grateful people, to their patriot benefactor, ordered his carriages into the rear of the whole line and mounted an elegant horse, accompanied by the venerable patriot, Charles Thomson, Esq. and his former aid-de-camp, the celebrated Colonel Humphreys, both of whom were also mounted on horseback.

On their way to the city, they were joined by detachments from the Chester and Philadelphia troops of horse, and also by a number of respectable citizens, at whose head was the worthy citizen and soldier, his Excellency Arthur St. Clair, Esq. Governor of the Western Territory. Thus they proceeded to Gray's Ferry, on the Schuylkill; observing the strictest order and regularity, during the march. But here such a scene presented itself, that even the pencil of a Raphael could not delineate.

The bridge was highly decorated with laurel and other evergreens, by Mr. Gray, the ingenious Mr. Peale, and others, and in such a style as to display uncommon taste in these gentlemen. At each end there were erected magni-

ficent arches composed of laurel, emblematical of the ancient triumphal arches, used by the Romans, and on each side of the bridge a laurel shrubbery, which seemed to challange even nature herself for simplicity, ease, and elegance; and as our beloved Washington passed the bridge, a lad beautifully ornamented with sprigs of laurel, assisted by certain machinery, let drop above the Hero's head, unperceived by him, a civic crown of laurel.

But who can describe the heart-felt congratulations of more than Twenty Thousand free citizens, who lined every fence, field, and avenue, between the bridge and the city. The aged sire, the venerable matron, the blooming virgin, and the ruddy youth, were all emulous in their plaudits—nay, the lisping infant did not withhold its innocent smile of praise and approbation.

In short, all classes and discriptions of citizens discovered (and they felt what they discovered,) the warmest attachment and unbounded zeal for their dear Chief, and I may add, under God, the Saviour of their country. Not all the pomp of majesty, nor even imperial dignity itself, surrounded with its usual splendor and magnificence, could equal this interesting scene,

INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

Of the President of the United States, to both Houses of Congress.

"GENTLEMEN,

"Among the vicisitudes incident to life, no event could have filled me with greater anxieties, than that, of which the notification was transmitted by your order, and received the 14th inst; on the one hand, I was summoned by my country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love, from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilictions, and, in my flattering hopes, with an immutable decision, as the assylum of my declining years: a retreat which was rendered every day more necessary, as well as more dear to me, by the addition of habit to inclination, and of frequent interruptions in health, to the gradual waste committed on it by time. On the other hand, the magnitude and difficulty of the trust, to which the voice of my country called me, being sufficient to awaken in the wisest and most experienced of her citizens, a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondence, one, who, inheriting inferior endowments from nature, and unpractised in the duties of civil administration, ought to be peculiarly conscious of his own deficiences. In this conflict of emotions, all I

dare aver, is, that it has been my faithful study to collect my duty from a just appreciation of every circumstance, by which it might be affected. All I dare hope, is that if, in executing this task, I have been too much swayed by a grateful remembrance of former instances, or by an affectionate sensibility to this transcendant proof of the confidence of my fellow-citizens—and have thence too little consulted my incapacity as well as disinclination for the weighty and untried cares before me—my error will be paliated by the motives which mislead me, and its consequences be judged by my country, with some share of the partiality in which they originated.

"Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station—it would be peculiarly improper to omit in the first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect—that his benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a government instituted by themselves, for these essential purposes: and may enable every instrument employed in its administration, to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the great Author of every public and private

good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large, less than either.—No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men, more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some tokens of Providential agency. And in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government, the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities, from which the event has resulted, cannot be compared with the means by which most governments have been established, without some return of pious gratitude, along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join me, I trust, in thinking, that there are none under the influence of which the proceeding of a new and free government can more auspiciously commence.

"By the article establishing the executive department, it is made the duty of the President 'to recommend to your consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.' The circumstances under which I now

meet you, will acquit me from entering into that subject, further than to refer to the great constitutional charter under which you are now assembled; and which in defining your powers, designates the objects to which your attention is to be given. It will be more consistent with those circumstances, and far more congenial with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute in place of a recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, the rectitude, and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected to devise and adopt them. In these qualifications, I behold the surest pledges, that as, on one side, no local prejudices or attachments—no separate views—nor party animosities, will mis-direct the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests; so on another, that the foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality; and the pre-eminence of free government, be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its citizens, and command the respect of the world. I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent love for my country can inspire; since there is no truth more thoroughly established, than that there exists in the economy and course of nature, an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, between the genuine

maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy, and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity: since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which heaven itself hath ordained; and since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

"Besides the ordinary object submitted to your care, it will remain with your judgment to decide how far an exercise of the occasional power delegated by the fifth article of the constitution is rendered expedient at the present juncture, by the nature of objections which have been urged against the system, or by the degree of inquietude which has given birth to them. Instead of undertaking particular recommendations on this subject, in which I could be guided by no lights derived from official opportunities, I shall again give way to my entire confidence in your discernment and pursuit of the public good: for I assure myself that whilst you carefully avoid every altercation which might endanger the benefits of an united and effective government, or which ought to await the future lessons of experience; a reverence for the characteristic rights of freemen,

and a regard for the public harmony, will sufficiently influence your deliberations on the question, how far the former can be more impregnably fortified, or the latter be safely and advantageously promoted.

"To the preceding observations, I have one to add, which will be most properly addressed to the House of Representatives. It concerns myself, and therefore will be as brief as possible. When I was first honored with a call into the service of my country, then on the eve of an arduous struggle for its liberties, the light in which I contemplated my duty required that I should renounce every pecuniary compensation. From this resolution I have in no instance departed. And being still under the impressions which produced it, I must decline, as inapplicable to myself, any share in the personal emoluments which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the executive department; and must accordingly pray that the pecuniary estimates for the station in which I am placed, may, during my continuance in it, be limited to such actual expenditures as the public good may be thought to require.

"Having thus imparted to you my sentiments, as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the Benign Parent of the human race, in humble supplication, that scince he has been pleas-

ed to favor the American people, with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquility, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of government, for the security of their union, and the advancement of their happiness; so his divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this goverment must depend.

G. WASHINGTON."

The first session of congress, under the new constitution, continued their sittings from the 4th of March until the 29th of September. Their attention was chiefly directed towards the establishment of various regulations for the restoration of the public credit of the United States, and other objects of political economy. During the period of the session, the President resided at New-York, sanctioning the proceedings of the legislature, and otherwise organizing the federal government. Shortly after the rising of Congress, he made a tour to the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and N. Hampshire, attended by Messrs. Lear and Jackson, his secretaries. In every part of the

country through which he passed, the citizens embraced the opportunity of personally testifying their esteem and respect of the *man of their choice*, in whose character, whatever is great and good—whatever dignifies and adorns human nature, are so happily united. All that a grateful people could pay was paid; whenever he approached a town or village, the roads were lined with citizens to hail him welcome—the military escorted him from place to place. Particularly to relate all the grateful testimonials which were paid him during the visit, is impossible from their number. If our limits would permit, a description of the manner in which he was received at Boston would be particularly interesting; nor can we specify the numerous congratulatory addresses which were presented him. But no particular circumstance gave him more pleasure, during the whole tour, than the plain and hearty manner in which Mr. Northey, the chairman of the selectmen at Salem received him. This gentleman is of the society of Friends, and when the President was presented to the selectmen, Mr. Northey being covered, took him by the hand and said, "Friend Washington, we are glad to see thee, and in behalf of the inhabitants, bid the a hearty welcome to Salem."

On his arrival at Newburyport, the following incident occured, a poor old soldier named Cotton who was with him in the memorable

battle on the Ohio, when Braddock was defeated, requested, and was admitted into the room where the President was—on the soldier's asking "*how Major Washington did?*" the President immediately recollected his person, and rising from his chair, took him by the hand, and tenderly inquired into the scenes of his life, and present circumstances. "I thank God," answered the soldier, "that I have an opportunity of seeing my old commander once more. I have seen him in adversity, and now seeing him in glory, I can go home and die contented. The next morning, he came again to take leave of the President, who gave him a guinea, which he accepted, he said, "merely as a token in remembrance of his commander," and which he wore pendent on his bosom, declaring that nothing earthly should separate it from him.

While General Washington was President of the United States, the following circumstance, which does honor to his humanity, occured. One Reuben Rouzy, of Virginia, owed him about a thousand pounds; one of the President's agents brought a suit for the money, judgement was obtained, and execution issued against the body of the defendant, who was taken to goal. He had a considerable landed property, but this kind of property, cannot be sold in Virginia for debts, unless at the discretion of the debtor. He had a large family, and

preferred lying in goal to selling his land, for the sake of his children.—Some of his acquaintance hinted to him, that probably General Washington did not know any thing of the proceedings, and it might be well to send him a petition, with a statement of the circumstances. He did so, and the very next post from Philadelphia, after his petition arrived, brought him a releasement, with a severe *reprimand* on the agent for acting in such a cruel manner, without consent. Poor Rouzy was, in consequence, restored to his family and happiness, who never laid down their heads at night, without offering their prayers to Heaven for our *much beloved* WASHINGTON.

In 1791, the attention of the Executive was engaged in devising modes to reconcile the citizens, in some districts of the union, to the law, enacted for the purpose of collecting a certain duty on spirits, distilled within the United States; in some of the states, particularly the western parts of Pennsylvania, where a regular and formidable opposition began to manifest itself, in consequence of which, the special interposition of the President was deemed advisable. He issued a proclamation recommending a compliance with the laws, and warning the citizens against all unlawful proceedings and combinations, having a tendency to obstruct the same.

The second Congress met again in November, 1792. The President opened the session

with a speech, the greatest part of which respected the unfortunate endeavors to terminate the Indian hostilities. He informed Congress of the opposition which had been manifested to the excise law, and recommended a revision of the judiciary system. He further, observed that three loans had been negotiated for the use of the United States, one at Antwerp, and two at Amsterdam, each for three millions of florins, on very reasonable terms, which afforded a pleasing evidence of the increasing credit of the new Government. On the 2d of March, 1793, this session adjoined.

On the 8th of April, 1793, citizen Genet arrived at Charleston, as minister plenipotentiary from the executive of France to the President of the United States. On the 22d of the same month the President issued a proclamation, enjoining the citizens of the United States to a strict neutrality, in the contest between the maritime powers, and threatening prosecution to all who should infringe the same. The public approbation of this wise measure, for the preservation of the public tranquility, was manifested in numerous addresses to the President thanking him in warm terms for his attention to the interest of the citizens. Genet arrived in Philadelphia, the seat of government, on the 17th of May. The conduct of this minister is perhaps, unexampled in diplomatic history. It was not until the publication of the proclama-

tion of the President, enjoining neutrality, that the government first heard of his arrival, and even then, they were only informed through the medium of the newspapers, about a fortnight after his arrival; instead of presenting his credentials to the President, he began to assume a conduct imprudent and unbecoming; he undertook to authorise the fitting out of armed vessels, he enlisted citizens and others, and gave commission to cruise and comm- hostilities against the vessels of England and other nations at war with France, who were, at the same time, at peace with the United States. These vessels had actually taken prizes, brought them into American ports, where the consuls of France held courts of admiralty, tried, condemned, and authorised their sale as legal prizes. These proceedings, in opposition to the peace of the United States, were instantly complained of by Mr. Hammond, the British minister; thus were the seeds of future controversy planted. The government of the United States interfered, and, in some cases, overruled the proceedings of both the British and French, as illegal; remonstrances were exhibited to the President, from both sides, which created a series of diplomatic correspondence. A new source of discontent, on the part of the French now arose; Genet demanded, with some abruptness, money from the treasury of the United States, in part payment of their

debt to France, with which the American government found it inconvenient to comply. This state of diplomatic hostility could not be expected to hold out long without coming to a crisis. Accordingly, on the 16th of August, the President ordered Mr. Jefferson, the secretary of state, to address a letter to Mr. Morris, the American ambassador in France, soliciting the republic to recall their minister. In the mean time Citizen Duplaine, Vice-consul for the republic of France, in the port of Boston, having committed sundry encroachments on the laws of the United States, the President in consequence thereof, suspended his powers.

The term for which General Washington was elected President having expired, he was again re-elected to the same office.

In 1794, during the recess of congress, the attention of the President of the United States was called to suppress an insurrection, which began to assume a very formidable aspect. It was confined to the western parts of the state of Pennsylvania. The outlines of it are as follows, viz. During the year 1790, the Congress of the United States found it necessary "to lay and collect excises." This mode of taxation, discordant to the genius of the citizens, in many parts of the union, met with considerable opposition, which, however, was gradually banished by reason and patriotism, excepting in the four western counties of Pennsylvania,

where a prejudice still remained, and produced symptoms of riot and violence. The disaffection was at first vented in general complaints; certain associations were formed to prevent the operation of the laws, and the excise officers received some marks of contempt and rudeness. These associations held public meetings, and published their resolutions. Besides the excise law, they censured several other acts of the federal government; as the exhorbitant salaries of office; the institution of a national bank; the interest of the public debt, &c.

On the 6th of September, 1794, the collector of the revenue for that district was seized by a party, armed, and in disguise; they tarred and feathered him, cut off his hair, and committed other acts of violence; legal process was therefore issued against the offenders, but the insurgents prevented the marshal from serving them; they fired upon him, arrested, and, for some time, detained him as a prisoner: a number of similar outrages were committed. The President, the ever watchful guardian of the constitution, beheld with sorrow, these excesses; he sought and weighed what was best to be done in this momentous crisis; he beheld the judiciary stripped of its capacity to enforce the laws, and crimes, which reached to the very existence of social order, perpetrated without controul; the friends of govern-

ment insulted, and that constitution violated, which he had made a sacred vow to protect; he beheld with abhorrence the idea of "arraying citizen against citizen," untill every lenient measure should be exhausted. He issued proclamations, exhorting the rioters to desist from such disorderly proceedings, he recommended obedience to the laws, he appointed commissioners to repair to the scene of insurrection authorizing them to confer with the insurgents, to state to them his sensations, to assure them that it was his earnest wish to avoid a resort to coertion; he even offered them pardon, on condition of receiving satisfactory assurance of obedience to the laws.

These lenient measures did not produce the good effects that should have been expected. The President therefore deemed it prudent to resort to military force.—Fifteen thousand militia were put in motion: their number intimidated the insurgents; thus the insurrection was quelled without the effusion of blood; some of the ringleaders were apprehended and brought to trial; one of them was found guilty of high treason and condemned to suffer, but was pardoned by the President.—Indeed, the same goodness of disposition actuated the President, from the beginning to the termination of this licentious invasion of the laws, notwithstanding there are in the United States, cetain discontented, invidious individuals, who wish to stigmatize every act of the Executive with opprobrium.

In November, 1794, the third Congress held their second session at Philadelphia. The President, began his speech with a history of the opposition which had been manifested to the constitution and laws of the United States, and of the means which he had pursued to suppress it; the alacrity which the militia, and others who volunteered their service, displayed, exibited, he said, "to the highest advantage, the value of republican government; to behold the most and least wealthy of our citizens, standing in the same ranks as private soldiers, pre-eminently distingnished by being the army of the constitution; undeterred by a march of three hundred miles, over rugged mountains, by the approach of an inclement season, or by any other discouragement." He recommended to congress to reimburse the officers of government and other citizens, who had sustained losses, for their generous exertions for upholding the constitution and laws. "The amount" he said "would not be great, and on future emergencies, the government would be amply repaid by the influence of an example, that he who incurs a loss in its defence, shall find a recompence in its liberality." The intelligence from the army of general Wayne, acting against the hostile Indians N. W. of the Ohio, he said, afforded a happy presage to the military operations; that they had damped the ardour and obstnacy of the savages—Yet although the power of the

United States to punish them could not be questioned, that he was not unwilling to cement a lasting peace, upon terms of equity and good neighborhood; he recommended the adoption of a definitive plan for the redemption of the public debt, and in subsequent communications be transmited to them, certain papers relative to the intercourse of the United States with foreign nations; they announced to Congress and to the world, his unremitting exertions to cultivate peace with all the world, to observe treaties with good faith, to check deviations from the line of impartiality, and to explain and correct what was misapprehended, or appeared injurious.

Ever since the formal ratification of the treaties of peace between the United States and Great-Britain, numerous causes of complaint have existed on the part of both countries respecting its fulfilment. The history of the nature, progress, and final determination of these disputes, will form a very interesting part in the history of the political and diplomatic character of *President Washington;* but the bounds which we have assigned to the present sketch prevent us from entering fully upon the subject. The ground of complaint on both sides, was disputed in 1792, in a correspondence between Mr. Jefferson, secretary of state, and Mr Hammond, the envoy of Britain. In their letters, the reciprocal complaints are stated with

candor, perspicuity, and completeness; to support their respective arguments, they bring forward on each side, a large body of illustrations and authorities which are highly interesting. This correspondence was published by Congress, in 1794. The arguments of Mr. Jefferson appeared to have contained unanswerable weight, as no reply or explanation was ever made to them, although requested by him. Affairs remained in this state of suspense until June, 1793, when the British, in consequence of their hostilities with France, issued orders to the commanders of their vessels, to stop all neutral vessels carrying provisions to any port in that republic; ships attempting to enter any French port, blockaded by the English, were to be condemned, both vessel and cargo, whatever it may consist of: the order contained a limited exception in favor of Denmark and Sweden, but in the execution of it, the rights of America were entirely disregarded. This matter produced a diplomatic discussion between the ministers of the two countries, both at London and Philadelphia: Their correspondence produced a mutual wish on both sides to establish a treaty of commerce, and a friendly adjustment of all complaints. The President of the United States, accordingly nominated Mr. John Jay, chief judge of the United States, as an envoy extraordinary to the court of London. After a short passage Mr. Jay arrived in

London, where he met with a polite reception, and negotiated the *Treaty of Peace, Commerce, and Navigation* which at present exists between the two countries.

The Treaty arrived in Philadelphia in March 1795; it was shortly after submitted to the Senate for their consent; they returned it to the President on the 24th of June, and advised the constitutional ratification thereof. About the 30th of the same month, it was submitted to the public through the medium of the newspapers. It now became the general topic of conversation; it was placed in all the different points of view of which it was susceptible, and in many of which it could not admit.

It met with great opposition. Addresses and resolutions were received from all the commercial towns of the union; some advising its ratification, others disapproving of it in *toto*. This opposition was viewed by the President in a very serious light; he considered the subject and weighed all the arguments which had been advanced against it; his own opinion was not in favor of it, but he did not wish to differ from the Senate, and thought that it would be better to ratify it in the manner they had advised; to this measure he was also induced, as Mr. Jay had asserted "that no better terms could possibly be obtained; that the obstinacy in rejecting the settlement might be serious." The President therefore assented, and ratifica-

tions were exchanged, with the suspension of the most objectionable article.

The first session of the fourth Congress met at Philadelphia, in December, 1795. The President in a speech informed them that negotiations were on foot for the adjustment of affairs with the hostile Indians, and also with the Dey and Regency of Algiers; that he had received assurances of a speedy and satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations with Spain; that with the advice of the Senate he had ratified a treaty with Britain, upon a condition which excepts part of one article. He recommended a review of the military establishment, and to make provision for garrisoning and securing the western posts which were to be delivered up by the British. He informed them that a state of the finance and appropriations necessary for the ensuing year would be laid before them; as also statements relative to the mint, progress in providing materials for building frigates, state of fortifications, and military magazines, &c. He concluded with a recommendation of temperate discussion and mutual forbearance in subjects where a difference of opinion may be apt to arise.

A warm and protracted discussion took place in the House of Representatives relative to the British treaty. Both sides of the question were ably supported; few subjects had ever come before the house, upon which so many members deliv-

ered their sentiments. On the 24th of March 1796, they came to a resolution, requesting the President to lay before the House, a copy of the instructions to Mr. Jay, together with his correspondence and other documents relative to that treaty. To which request the President gave a positive refusal; he assured the House, that he had always endeavored to harmonise with the other branches of the government, and that he had never withheld any information which the constitution enjoined him to give. But that the nature of foreign negotiations required caution and secrecy; that all the papers relative thereto had been laid before the Senate; that the constitution empowered him to make treaties with the consent of that body; but that it would establish a dangerous precedent to admit a right in the House of Representatives to demand and have all papers respecting negotiations with foreign powers, after the treaties were finally concluded and ratified, and the assent of that house not necessary to their validty.

We deem it unnecessary to enter into a history of the differences with the republic of France, as they are not yet terminated, and are so recent as to be generally remembered; suffice it to observe, that during the whole period in which General Washington sat at the helm of public affairs, his whole conduct has uniformly exhibited moderation and prudence, magnanimity and firmness, wisdom and virtue.

The period of General Washington's second election to the office of Chief Magistrate being nearly expired, he put on a determined resolution to retire from the public, and enjoy his declining years in private life. Upon this momentous occasion, resigning a charge which he at first accepted through his enthusiasm for the principles of *rational liberty*, he was impressed with the purest wishes for the future happiness of that republic, to which he had devoted the early, the mature, and a portion of his declining years to establish. His determination was announced in an address to the people of the United States replete with political wisdom and paternal solicitude. It was received in every part of the Union with unbounded veneration, and regarded as an invaluable gift from the father of his country. As it has since been published in every form, and circulated in almost every family, it becomes unnecessary to recite it here.

On the 7th of December, 1796, President Washington delivered his last speech to the representatives of the people at the opening of the second session of the Fourth Congress. In this address he communicates information respecting the measures taken for carrying into effect treaties with the Indian nations, Great-Britain, Spain, and Algiers. He likewise informs, that

measures are in operation for effecting treaties with the Regencies of Tunis and Tripoli. He wishes the United States to look to the means, and to set about the gradual creation of a navy; so that a future war of Europe may not find our commerce in the same unprotected state in which it was found by the present.

He then proceeded to recommend the establishment of certain branches of manufacture on public account; *particularly those which are of a nature essential to the furnishing and equipping of the public force in time of war.*

He judiciously recommends the institution of a Board of Agriculture, composed of proper characters, charged with collecting and diffusing information, and enabled by premiums and small pecuniary aids, to encourage and assist a spirit of discovery and improvement. Experience has proved this to be a cheap instrument of immense national benefit. He then recalls the attention of Congress, to a subject, he had before proposed to their consideration, the expediency of establishing a national university, and also a military academy. He points out as motives to the institution of a national university, the assimilation of the principles, opinions, and manners of our countrymen, by the common education of a portion of our youth from every quarter; and remarks that the more homogeneous our citizens can be made in these particulars, the greater will be the prospect of our

permanent union: and that a primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of GOVERNMENT. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? and what duty can be more pressing on its Legislature, than to patronize a plan for communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?

The institution of the military academy, he also observes, is recommended by cogent reasons. However pacific, says he, the general policy of a nation may be, it ought never to be without an adequate stock of military knowledge, for emergencies.

The following important paragraph is verbatim: "The compensations to the officers of the United States, in various instances, and in none more than in respect to the most important stations, appear to call for legislative revision. The consequences of a defective provision are of serious import to the government. If private wealth is to supply the defect of public contribution, it will greatly contract the sphere, within which the selection of a character for office is to be made, and will proportionably diminish the probability of a choice of men, able, as well as upright. Besides, that it would be repugnant to the vital principles of our government, virtually to exclude from public trust, talents and virtue, unless accompanied by wealth."

The President then expresses his regret at the unpleasant circumstances which have occurred relative to the French republic; his ardent wish being to maintain cordial harmony, as far as is consistent with the rights and honor of our country.

The House of Representatives he informed, that the revenues of the United States continue in a state of progressive improvement: and are invited to take such further measures as will ascertain, to our country, the speedy extinguishment of the public debt.

He then concluded his address to both houes of Congress, in the following words: "My solicitude to see the militia of the United States placed on an efficient establishment, has been so often and so ardently expressed, that I shall but barely recall the subject to your view, on the present occasion. At the same time, I shall submit to your inquiry, whether our harbors are yet sufficiently secured.

"The situation in which I now stand, for the last time, in the midst of the representatives of the people of the Uuited States, naturally recalls the period, when the administration of the present form of government commenced; and I cannot omit the occason to congratulate you, and my country, on the success of the experiment; nor to repeat my fervent prayer to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and Sovereign Arbiter of Nations, that his provi-

dential care, may still be extended to the United States; that the virtue and happiness of the people may be preserved; and that the government which they have instituted for the protection of their liberties may be perpetual."

The last official act of *President Washington*, is a letter to the Secretary of State, dated March 3d, 1797. It respects certain forged letters, which were published in the years 1777 and 1796, and obtruded on the public as his. They were published at the two most critical periods of his life, with the view of striking at the integrity of his motives, of wounding his character, and of deceiving the people. At the conclusion, therefore, of his public imployments, he deemed it a duty which he owed to himself, to his country, and to truth, to detail the circumstances, and solemnly to declare, that the letters (the dates of which he recites) are base forgeries, were never written by him, and that he never saw or heard of them, until they appeared in print. During the period in which he held the supreme command of the army, and his civil administration, the purity of his own mind prevented him from contradicting the falsehood by any public declaration; but, upon his retiring to private life, and not knowing how soon a more serious event might take place, he made this public declaration, and requested that it might be deposited in the office of the department of state, as a testimony

of the truth to the present generation and t
posterity.

On the 22d of March, 1797, General Wash
ington took a farewell of all public employmen
and left Philadelphia for his estate at Moun
Vernon. In every town through which he pa
sed on his way, he received the grateful an
affectionate addresses which were so justly du
to his merits from an enlightened and grateft
people.

Having thus amply described the *augu
Washington* in his public character and offici
capacity, suffer us, for a moment, to follo
him in private, and take a view of him in th
character of a plain citizen in his rural residenc
at Mount-Vernon.

The virtuous simplicity which distinguishe
the private life of General Washington, thoug
less known than the dazzleing splendour of h
military atchievements, is not less edifying i
example, or worthy the attention of his cou
trymen. The conspicuous character he h
acted on the theatre of human affairs, the un
form dignity with which he sustained his pa
amidst difficulties of the most discouraging n
ture, and the glory of having arrived throug
them at the hour of triumph, having made m
ny official and literary persons, on both sides
the ocean, ambitious of a correspondence wi
him. These correspondencies unavoidably e
grossed a great portion of his time; and th

communications contained in them, combined with the numerous periodical publications and newspapers which he perused, rendered him, as it were, the *focus of political intelligence, for the new world.* Nor were his conversations with well infomed men less conducive to bring him acquainted with the various events which happened in the different countries of the globe. Every foreigner of distinction, who travelled in America, made it a point to visit him. Members of congress, and other dignfied personages, seldom passed his house without calling to pay their respects. As another source of information, it may be mentioned, that many literary productions were sent to him annually by the authors in Europe; and that there is scarely one work written in America, on any art, science, or subject, which did not seek his protection or which was not offered to him as a token of gratitude. Mechanical inventions were frequently submitted to him for his approbation, and natural curiosities presented to him for his investigation. But the multiplicity of epistolary applications, often on the remains of some business which happened when he was in office, sometimes on subjects foreign to his situation, frivolous in their nature, and intended merely to graitfy the vanity of the writers by drawing answers from him, were truly distressing and almost incredible. His benignity in answering, prehaps, increased the number. Did he

not husband every moment to the best advantage, it would not have been in his power to notice the vast variety of subjects that claimed his attention.

In his manner of living he was extremely regular, temperate and industrious. He rose winter and summer, at the dawn of the day, generally read or wrote sometimes before breakfast; breakfasted about seven o'clock on Indian hoecake and tea, and often rode immediately to his different farms, and remained with his labourers till a little after two o'clock, when he returned; at three he dined, commonly on a single dish, and drank from half a pint to a pint of Madeira wine; this with one small dish of tea which he took half an hour before the setting of the sun, constituted his whole sustenence till the next day. His table, however, was always furnished with elegance and exuberence, but was void of pomp; and whether he had company or not, he remained an hour at table in familiar conversation. His temper was of a serious cast, and his countenance carried the impression of thoughtfulness; yet he perfectly relished a pleasant story, an unaffected sally of wit, or a burlesque description. After dinner he applied himself to business, and about nine retired to rest; but when he had company he politely attended upon them till they wished to withdraw.—Agriculture was his favorite employment; he made observations on the produce of lands, and en-

deavored to thorw new light on the business of the farmer; linen and woolen cloths were manufactured under his roof; and order and economy were established in all his departments, both within and without doors. Mrs. Washington presided over the whole, and united to the qualities of an excellent farmer's wife, that simple dignity which ought to characterize a woman whose husband has acted so distinguished a part on the public theatre.—Such is the history of the private life of this great character.

On the 14th of December, 1799, it pleased Divine Providence to remove him from this life; he was in his 68th year, and in the enjoyment of perfect health; the disorder of which he died was an inflammatory sore throat, which proceeded from a slight cold.

"On Friday, the 13th, he rode out to one of his plantations, and was much wet by the rain, on returning. He was taken with the *croup* that night; but from humanity to his servants and tenderness to his physician, *verry infortunately* declined sending for medical aid, until day-light on Saturday morning.

"Before Dr. Craik arrived at Mount Vernon, the General had been bled by one of his overseers. The doctor repeated the same immediately; to whom the General obseved, "he had sent for him to late;" and seemed to have a presentiment of his dissolution; Doctors Dick and Brown also attended.

"As his respiration became difficult, he said calmly, "*Doctors I die hard.*" But, notwithstanding the excruciating agonies of his violent disease, he tranquilly asked several questions during the evening. About fifteen minutes before he died, (which was between 11 and 12 o'clock, on Saturday night, the 14th of December) he said to Doctor Craik, "*doctor, what is the clock? how long am I to continue in this situation?*" The doctor answered, "*Not long sir.*" He then rejoined, with the firmest countenance imaginable, "*I have no fear, doctor, to die.*"

Mrs. Washington was at the bed side with his family, and a number of domestics in the room. He would not wound their sensibility by taking a formal leave of any one.—At last his breathing grew shorter, *he closed his eyes and mouth with his own hands*, and expired! Thus did the last moments of this venerable man correspond with the whole tenor of his well spent life. He died with perfect resignation to the will of Heaven, and in full possession of his reason; not a groan or complaint escaped him!

THE END.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Just Published, and For Sale,

BY B. AND J. RUSSELL, JR.

A

GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW

OF

UPPER CANADA,

And promiscuous remarks upon the Government; with an Appendix, containing a complete description of the Niagara Falls, and remarks relative to the situation of the inhabitants, respecting the war.

By MICHAEL SMITH.

Price 25 Cents.

—*ALSO*—

The Life, Travels, Voyages, and Daring Engagements of

PAUL JONES.

Containing numerous anecdotes of his Undaunted Courage.—To which is added,

The Life and Adventures of

PETER WILLIAMSON,

Who was Kidnapped when an Infant, from his native place, Aberdeen, and sold for a slave in America. Price 20 Cents.

ADVERTISEMENT.

—ALSO—

A COMPLETE LIST OF THE

AMERICAN NAVY.

Showing the Name, Number of Guns, Commander's Name, and Station of Each Vessel, to October 1, 1813.

To which is Added,

STEELE'S LIST OF THE ROYAL NAVY

OF

GREAT-BRITAIN.

Price 12 1-2 *Cents.*

Together with Chronological Problems, Song-Books, Chap-Books, Toys, &c. &c. ; all of which are for sale, wholesale and retail, very cheap.

PRINTING,

W 73

Of all kinds, executed with neatness and despatch.

B. & J. RUSSELL, jr.

Have Just Published, and Offer For Sale, Wholesale and Retail,

THE LIFE OF

PAUL JONES,

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES

OF

PETER WILLIAMSON.

—LIKEWISE—

Offer For Sale,

A general assortment of *SCHOOL BOOKS*, with a great variety of *Chap-Books Toys*, and other *Small Books*, for the amusement and instruction of Children.

PRINTING,

Handsomely executed, and on short notice, in all its various branches.

HARTFORD, October 13, 1813.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS